

# ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Volume 8, August 2010

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## PRESIDENT OBAMA'S RAMADAN STATEMENT



"Ramadan is a celebration of a faith known for great diversity. And Ramadan is a reminder that Islam has always been part of America," President Obama says August 13.

### Statement by the President on the Occasion of Ramadan

Statement by the President on the Occasion of Washington, August 11 -- On behalf of the American people, Michelle and I want to extend our best wishes to Muslims in America and around the world. Ramadan Kareem.

Ramadan is a time when Muslims around the world reflect upon the wisdom and guidance that comes with faith, and the responsibility that human beings have to one another, and to God. This is a time when families gather, friends host iftars, and meals are shared. But Ramadan is also a time of intense devotion and reflection -- a time when Muslims fast during the day and pray during the night; when Muslims provide support to others to advance opportunity and prosperity for people everywhere. For all of us must remember that the world we want to build -- and the changes that we want to make -- must begin in our own hearts, and our own communities.

These rituals remind us of the principles that we hold in common, and Islam's role in advancing justice, progress, tolerance, and the dignity of

all human beings. Ramadan is a celebration of a faith known for great diversity and racial equality. And here in the United States, Ramadan is a reminder that Islam has always been part of America and that American Muslims have made extraordinary contributions to our country. And today, I want to extend my best wishes to the 1.5 billion Muslims around the world -- and your families and friends -- as you welcome the beginning of Ramadan.

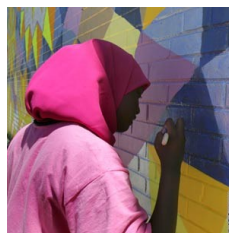
I look forward to hosting an Iftar dinner celebrating Ramadan here at the White House later this week, and wish you a blessed month.

May God's peace be upon you.

Available online at [http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/pr\\_08122010.html](http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/pr_08122010.html)

Remarks by the President at Iftar Dinner is available online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/08/13/remarks-president-iftar-dinner-0>

### RAMADAN IN AMERICA: FAITH AND COMMUNITY



As with Muslim communities around the world, Ramadan for American Muslims is marked by fasting and charity. But while fasting is observed one month of the year, many Muslim

Americans make charity and giving back to their communities year-round activities. From disaster relief to promoting peace, Muslims are making a difference in communities throughout the United States. Details is available at [http://www.america.gov/ramadan\\_community.html](http://www.america.gov/ramadan_community.html)

### About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

### Inside this issue:

President Obama's Ramadan Statement	P. 1
Global Issues	P. 2
Economic Security	P. 2
International Relations	P. 2
U.S. Society & Values	P. 3
E-Journal	P. 3

# ARTICLE ALERT

## GLOBAL ISSUES

1. Shields, Todd and Stone, Brad **THE FCC'S CRUSADE TO KEEP THE INTERNET FREE** (Blumberg Businessweek, August 11, 2010)

Imagine an Internet for which consumers paid a low price for basic service and higher prices for add-ons like 3D video. Or imagine if Comcast (CMCSA), now seeking approval to acquire NBC Universal, allowed its customers to download Universal movies at superfast speeds, while relegating the latest Harry Potter film from rival Time Warner (TWX) to the slow lane. Open-Internet advocates say such cable-television-like tiered services and virtual toll booths would violate "Net neutrality," the concept that all information coursing across the Web is equal.

2. Davies, Catriona **A BLUEPRINT FOR BLUE PLANET PROTECTION** (CNN, July 30, 2010)

The oceans have become so depleted by over-fishing, pollution and climate change that they can only be saved by a large global network of reserves, according to a growing consensus among marine scientists. Campaigners say that sea life -- particularly at the top of the food chain -- is suffering to such an extent that there will eventually be no fish left if action drastic action is not taken to protect the oceans. According to Professor Callum Roberts, of the University of York, only about 0.1 percent of the sea is completely protected from all exploitation. This should be between 25 and 45 percent to give marine species the best chance of recovery, he said.

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

3. Dickey, Christopher **HAPPINESS IS...** (Newsweek, August 16, 2010)

The GDP measures everything except that which makes life worthwhile. For most of the last seven decades, which is to say about as long as economists have been calculating what's now called "gross domestic product," it's been criticized for being, well, too gross. "Economic resources are not all that matter in people's lives," warns Angel Gurría, secretary--general of the 32-country Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Yet as a convenient marker of national economic health, GDP tends to dominate discussions of how nations rank against one another. Is the answer to change the way you count up GDP? Do you try to play it down as an indicator? Or do you throw it out? That debate is in full swing among economists now, and how it's decided will have a profound effect on the way we perceive our ability to survive or thrive in the years to come.

4. Rosenbloom, Stephanie **BUT WILL IT MAKE YOU HAPPY?** (New York Time Magazine, August 7, 2010)

A two-bedroom apartment. Two cars. Enough wedding china



to serve two dozen people. Yet Tammy Strobel wasn't happy. Working as a project manager with an investment management firm in Davis, Calif., and making about \$40,000 a year, she was, as she put it, caught in the "work-spend treadmill." So one day she stepped off. Inspired by

books and blog entries about living simply, Ms. Strobel and her husband, Logan Smith, both 31, began donating some of their belongings to charity. As the months passed, out went stacks of sweaters, shoes, books, pots and pans, even the television after a trial separation during which it was relegated to a closet. Eventually, they got rid of their cars, too. Emboldened by a Web site that challenges consumers to live with just 100 personal items, Ms. Strobel winnowed down her wardrobe and toiletries to precisely that number. As recession forces consumers to re-evaluate spending, research shows that money spent on experiences, rather than stuff, generates longer-lasting fulfillment.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

5. Azimi, Negar **THE IMPRESSION OF ISLAM** (New York Times Magazine; 8/15/2010, p24, Op)

The Cairo-based music video channel 4Shbab combines the aesthetics of western music programming with the morals of more devout Muslim channels. By launching 4Shbab, the first

Islamic version of MTV, Egyptian entrepreneur Ahmed Abu Haiba is hoping to prove that Islam and modernity are not incompatible. Available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/15/magazine/15Pop-t.html?pagewanted=1&ref=magazine>

## Continued...

6. Dueck, Colin **REGAINING A REALISTIC FOREIGN POLICY: WHAT THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND RONALD REAGAN TEACH** (Policy Review, Aug/Sep2010, Issue 162, p69-81, 13p).

A period out of power has given conservatives and Republicans a golden opportunity to reassess their approach toward American foreign policy. Such periods in opposition are often fruitful for political parties, which can reformulate creative

and winning ideas on issues of public policy. But there is nothing to say that they will necessarily do such reformulation. Success in political and conceptual rebuilding requires intellectual honesty regarding current strengths and weaknesses. Conservatives pride themselves on a clear-eyed view of political and policy realities. It is entirely fitting that this same clear-eyed view be turned on conservative foreign policy approaches. Currently available online at <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policy-review/article/43426>

## U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES



Hatem Bazian followed by Imam Zaid Shakir at Zaytuna College's opening-day ceremony.

7. Bortot, M. Scott **MUSLIM-AMERICAN SCHOLARS LAUNCH ISLAMIC COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA**

(America.gov, August 26, 2010)

The long history of Islamic scholarship has just gotten a novel addition: a college in California that seeks to educate Muslim leaders. Zaytuna College held its inaugural classes August 24 and aims

to become America's first four-year, accredited, Islamic institution of higher learning. Founded by three Muslim-American scholars, Zaytuna focuses on renewing Islam's intellectual tradition while placing it in the context of American society. Available online at <http://www.america.gov/st/education/2010/August/20100826080136kcsniggi0.7977564.html>



Bassam Tariq, and Aman Ali.

8. Baron, Jeff **OFF TO FIND AMERICA, MOSQUE BY MOSQUE** (America.gov August 20, 2010)

Two New Yorkers take to the road for Ramadan, Aman Ali and Bassam Tariq are touring Muslim America. They are fasting their way across 30 states and celebrating iftars in 30 mosques. They are

driving 12,000 miles (19,300 kilometers) to get closer to their faith. A year ago, they said, they were praying at a

mosque with a big crowd on the first day of Ramadan and came up with the idea of spending the holy month visiting a different mosque each day — 30 mosques in 30 days. "In New York City, there's over 800,000 Muslims. If you type my address on Google, you can find 162 mosques in a five-mile radius," Ali said. "And so we're like, 'Hey, let's try it.'" Available online at <http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2010/August/20100820131829kjinad9.208322e-03.html>

9. Dave Price **TEANECK, A SMALL TOWN BIG ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE** (CBS News, August 11, 2010)

Far away from the religious strife of the Middle East and the



Teaneck's Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin (left) is a Muslim, and the deputy mayor Adam Gussen (right) is an Orthodox Jew. (CBS)

simmering tensions of our post September 11 world, there's an oasis of hope in the small community of Teaneck, New Jersey. Thirty percent of its residents are Jewish, and their new mayor is a practicing Muslim. Working together to keep this community not only intact but flourishing, are Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin and his Deputy Adam Gussen - an Orthodox Jew. Mayor Hameeduddin says Teaneck "is an incubator for understanding." He added, "it's

not a homogeneous community - and you want your children in a community where they're going to meet all different kinds of people." Available online at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/08/11/eveningnews/main6764681.shtml?tag=latesthttp://>

Information Resource Center  
Public Affairs Section  
U.S. Embassy Jakarta  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5  
Jakarta Pusat 10110

*Mailing Label*

Phone: 021-350-8467  
Fax: 021-350-8466  
E-mail: [ircjakarta@state.gov](mailto:ircjakarta@state.gov)

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1. ( ) THE FCC'S CRUSADE TO KEEP THE INTERNET FREE
2. ( ) A BLUEPRINT FOR BLUE PLANET PROTECTION
3. ( ) HAPPINESS IS...
4. ( ) BUT WILL IT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
5. ( ) THE IMPRESSION OF ISLAM
6. ( ) REGAINING A REALISTICS FOREIGN POLICY
7. ( ) MUSLIM-AMERICAN SCHOLARS LAUNCH ISLAMIC COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA
8. ( ) OFF TO FIND AMERICA, MOSQUE BY MOSQUE
9. ( ) TEANECK, A SMALL TOWNL BIG ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE

E-JOURNAL USA

- ( ) DEFINING INTERNET FREEDOM

### Defining Internet Freedom

#### July 2010

Speaking in January 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton likened the spread of Internet-driven information networks to "a new nervous system for our planet." "In many respects," she continued, "information has never been so free." But also "we've seen a spike in threats to the free flow of information." How different governments and societies confront these new and transformative technologies

is the subject of this *eJournal USA*. For features and more details, please visit

[http://www.america.gov/defining\\_internet\\_freedom.html](http://www.america.gov/defining_internet_freedom.html)

